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WORD-FORMATION AS A FUNDAMENT OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The English language only seems difficult and quite different from other languages, but actually it works the same way as Ukrainian – by adding affixes (an addition to the base form or stem of a word in order to modify its meaning or create a new word) to different parts of a word in order to make new meanings and even new parts of speech. For instance, adding a prefix neo- gives an adjective meaning “new” or “modern”: neoculture = new culture, neologism = new word etc.

Affixes, mentioned below, are used the most, when we need to add some meaning, negative or positive. They are usually divided into prefixes and suffixes. Their difference is that prefixes are put before the root word

and suffixes – after it. They also can be together in the same word: multicultural, for example, has a prefix multi- (meaning “many/much”) and a suffix -al that is used to make adjectives.

Below you can see a short list of the most popular prefixes and their meanings.

- a) qualitative:
 - 1) mono- = one: monolid = one lid,
 - 2) multi- = many: multicultural = a lot of cultures, multifruit = a lot of fruits;
 - 3) over- = too much: overcharged = too charged;
- b) time:
 - 1) pre- = before (pre-war = before war);
 - 2) post- = after (post-war = after war)
- c) place:
 - 1) extra- = outside of/beyond: extraterrestrial
 - 2) sub- = under: submarine
 - 3) trans- = across: transatlantic = across the Atlantic Ocean;
- d) negative meaning:
 - 1) dis- = remove, not (disagree = not agree, disqualify = remove from a game);
 - 2) down- = reduce (downgrade = reduce to a lower grade);
 - 3) il-/im-/in-/ir- = not: illegal, impossible, insecure, irregular;
 - 4) mis- = incorrect: misuse = the wrong use of something
 - 5) un = not, remove, reverse or opposite to: unusual = not usual, unable = not able, undo = reverse the effects a previous action, unhappy = non happy;
- e) others:
 - 1) auto- = self: autobiography = a biography written by myself;
 - 2) re- = again: repeat, redo;
 - 3) pro- = in favour of: pro-communist = supporting communism and its ideas;
 - 4) semi- = half.

And so on. There are a lot of prefixes, that have different meanings. So many, that you can make a dictionary special for them.

As for suffixes, we classify them not by meaning, but by the part of speech: adjectives have completely different suffixes than nouns, as follows:

- 1. noun suffixes: -age, -dom, -ee, -er(-or), -hood, -ism and -ist, -ship, -sion/-tion/-xion etc;
- 2. adjective suffixes: -able(-ible), -al, -en, -ish, -ive, -y, -ous and so on;
- 3. verb suffixes: -ate, -ife, -ise (-ize);
- 4. adverb suffixes: -ly, -ward(s), -wise.

But not only affixes are used for word formation. We can also use compounding words, converse them from one part of speech to another, even remove parts of a word.

Compounding is linking together two or more words to create a new one: back + ache = backache, cruelty + free = cruelty-free (products, made without experiments on animals), heart + break + suffix -ing = heartbreaking and so on.

There is a problem when you don't know where to put hyphens. For example, is it correct to write "sugarfree" or should we use a hyphen ("sugar-free")? Even English-speaking people make mistakes while writing compound words, so all we can recommend is to check unknown words in a good actual dictionary.

Conversion is changing a word from one class to another. For example, email (write an email) as a letter typed on a computer and to email.

Back-formation is the opposite of word formation, where we do not add any new parts to an existing word but rather remove them. It occurs rarely, but we should know about it. Examples are: intuition - to intuit (-suffix -ion), enthusiasm - to enthuse (-iasm). As we can understand, it is usually used for making new verbs from nouns.

So, there are a lot of methods of making words: you can add and delete parts, combine them to get new words (or neologisms. Moreover, this word is also made with prefix neo-) or even move a word from one class to another. The English language is fluid and has a unique and complex form, despite the seeming simplicity.